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HEALTH
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BEDFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1954

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

D. T. MATTHEWS, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.
Sanitary Inspector.

68039



To the Chairman and Members of the Bedford Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report upon the health vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Bedford Rural District for the year 1954.

The vital statistics for the year are satisfactory. The infant mortality rate continues to be low and there were no maternal deaths. The proportion of deaths occurring over the age of 64 indicates an increasing average length of life for the population. The number of infectious diseases notified during the year was exceptionally low, an outbreak of infective hepatitis in Eaton Socon was the only incident of note, and this remained localised without any special action being taken by this department.

Private slaughtering was resumed during the year following the passing of the Slaughterhouses Act, and although slaughtering in private slaughterhouses did not occur on a large scale, the duty of inspecting meat placed a heavy burden on the chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff due to the fact that meat had to be inspected in nine different slaughterhouses and at all times of the day. As a result your Health Committee decided to increase the establishment of the department by one additional Sanitary Inspector to cope with this and other increasing work.

Substantial progress was made in the district with house building, private enterprise producing more new houses than the Council for the first time in many years. The waiting list for new houses has been hardly affected, however, and many families are still living in very unsatisfactory accommodation.

Steady progress with the improvement to the water supply continued and there were prospects of an early start on a major scheme of sewerage collection and disposal, which it is hoped will eventually reduce the number of polluted streams and ditches, and will relieve the strain on the cesspool emptying and night soil collecting schemes which are proving increasingly inadequate for the district.

The County Report of the 1951 Census was published during the year and revealed some interesting facts. The population of Bedfordshire increased from 63,393 in 1801 to 206,462 in 1921. At this time the population of Bedford Rural District was 21,972; it had risen in 1931

to 22,204, and in 1951 it had risen to 30,713, an increase in 20 years of 38·3%, only 7·6% of which was accounted for by natural increase resulting from an excess of births over deaths. A 30·7% increase, therefore, being due to inward migration. No indication of the origin of this increase was given for this district, but taking the county as a whole, out of every 1,000 of the population 60 persons were born in Wales, Scotland or Ireland, 7 in Commonwealth or Colonial countries and 19 in foreign countries. An analysis of the population in certain of the larger parishes is given in Table V in the body of the report, and a tabular analysis of the total population showing sex and age structure is also shown.

8,172 dwellings were found to be occupied, including 128 caravans, and 314 were vacant at the time of the Census. A certain amount of overcrowding was revealed, for instance 79 persons were enumerated as living more than 3 per room. 403 persons more than 2 per room, 1,382 more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ per room and over 3,985 more than 1 per room, i.e. 1·84% living more than 2 per room in 1951, compared with 2·59% in 1931. This indicates a considerable improvement, although still not satisfactory. Something like 42% of households had no piped water supply, 6% had no cooking stoves, 27% no kitchen sinks, 57% no W.C., and 59% no fixed bath. Only 35% of households had the exclusive use of all five of these amenities. Of those persons not living in private households, 63 were living in hotels, 3 in boarding houses, 117 in homes for the aged, 83 in schools and children's homes, 173 in hospitals and nursing homes, and 1,109 in miscellaneous establishments.

The distribution of the population between the various social classes was as follows:—2% were in Social Class I (Professional occupations); 12% in Class II (Intermediate occupations); 50% in Class III (Skilled occupations); 21% in Class IV (Partly skilled occupations); and 12% in Class V (Unskilled occupations).

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the District Council and the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1954

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
<i>Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer</i>	D. T. MATTHEWS, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor</i>	R. J. CREWDSON, A.R.I.C.S., Cert. S.I.E.J.B.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	F. S. SETCHELL, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.
<i>Assistant Water Engineer</i>	R. J. MINNS
<i>Housing and Building Inspector</i>	R. H. GOODSHIP

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	112,590
Population—										
Census for 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,688
Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1954	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,160
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,429
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£155,597
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£600

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Non-agricultural industries in the area consist of brickworks at Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick, leather dressing at Harrold and Odell, and the National Aeronautical Establishment north of Bedford. The main industry, however, is still agriculture consisting principally of arable land with considerable areas of pasture, especially in the Ouse Valley. Industries in the Borough of Bedford and the Urban District of Rushden give employment to residents of nearby villages in this Rural District.

The National Aeronautical Establishment is still under construction, although some large projects have been completed and are being used. This Establishment is attracting considerable population, part of which consists of temporary structural employees, many of whom reside in hostels or caravans. Other hostels are used in connection with the brickworks.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	258	203	461
Illegitimate	...	...	...	22	13	35
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	...	...	...	280	216	496
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Crude Birth Rate	...	...	15.4 per 1,000 home population			
Comparable Birth Rate	...	...	18.4 „ „ „ „			
(The comparability factor for the district being 1.19)						

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	14.8 per 1,000 home population
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	15.3 „ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	15.2 „ „ „ „

STILL BIRTHS

				Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	3	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total	...	...	...	4	3	7
				<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Still Birth Rate	...	...	13.9 per 1,000 live and still births			

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	21.5 „ „ „ „ „ „
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	24.4 „ „ „ „ „ „
Rate for England and Wales	...	24.0 „ „ „ „ „ „

DEATHS

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths in the District	...	...	156	91	247
Transferred into District	...	...	71	49	120
Transferred from District	...	...	3	4	7
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	224	136	360
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Death Rate	...	...	11·2 per 1,000 home population		
Comparable Death Rate	...	...	10·3	„	„

(The comparability factor for the District being ·92)

As compared with

Average of last 5 years	...	...	9·9 per 1,000 home population		
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	10·0	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	11·3	„	„

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	9	2	11
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	9	2	11
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rate ... 22·2 per 1,000 related births

As compared with—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	27·1	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	26·5	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	25·5	„	„	„	„

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality ... Nil per 1,000 total live and still births

As compared with:—

Average of last 5 years	...	...	Nil	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for Bedfordshire	...	...	0·60	„	„	„	„	„	„
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	0·69	„	„	„	„	„	„

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes	Under 15 years		15-65		over 65		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	3	—	5	3	8	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	—	5	—	6	2	11	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	1	—	9	6	20	6	30	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	—	—	5	6	20	21	25	27
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	—	10	1	20	12	30	13
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	2	2	2	4	4	6
20. Other heart disease ...	—	—	9	—	19	20	28	20
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—	—	10	3	10	3
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
23. Pneumonia ...	1	1	—	1	10	5	11	7
24. Bronchitis ...	—	—	3	1	3	3	6	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	1	—	5	1	6	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	—	5	5	15	9	24	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	7	—	2	—	9	—
34. All other accidents ...	—	—	4	1	3	3	7	4
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes ...	9	2	67	31	148	103	224	136

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

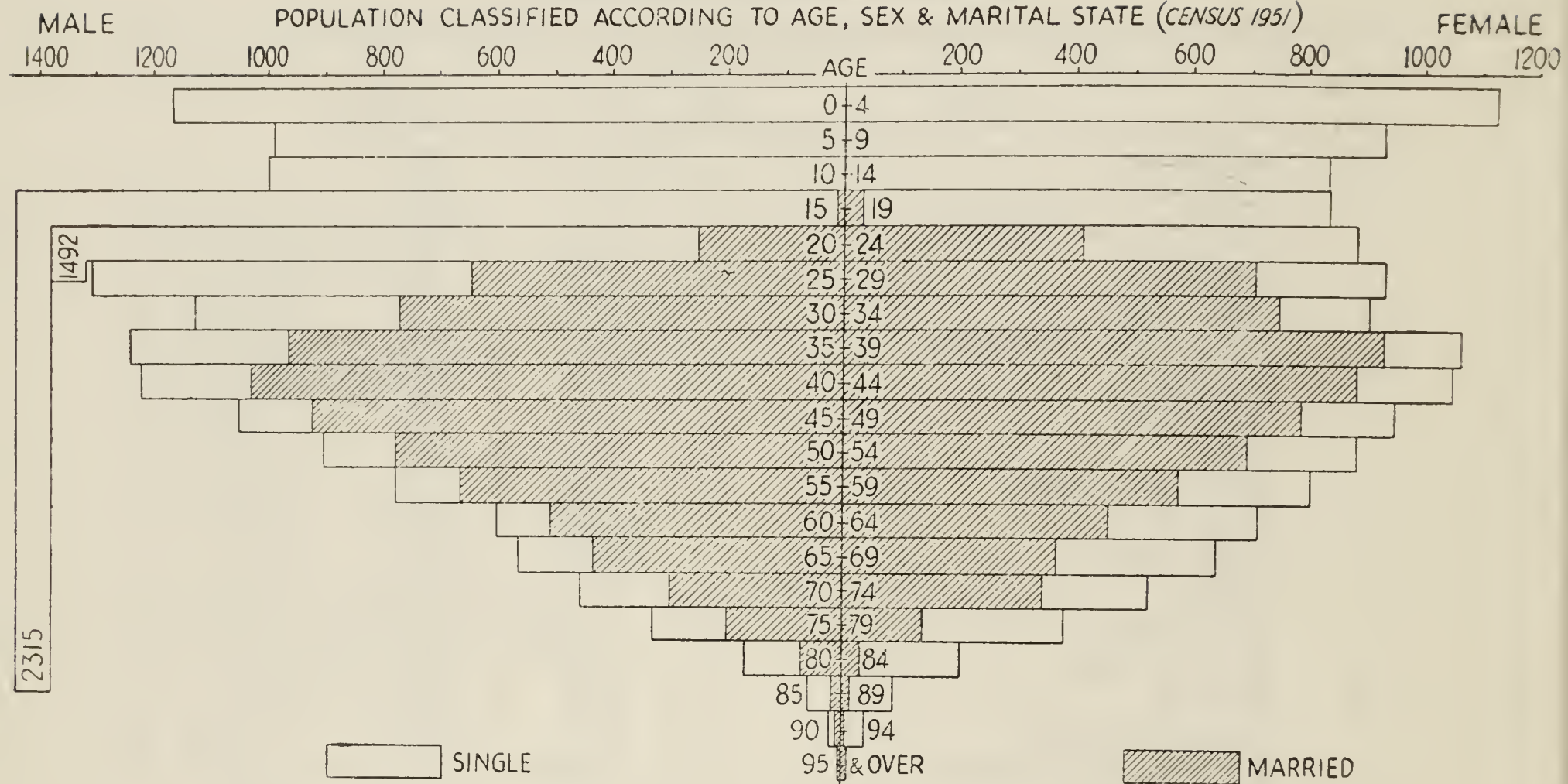
Prematurity ...	three
Congenital abnormality ...	three
Broncho pneumonia ...	two
Pulmonary haemorrhage ...	one
Supra renal tumour ...	one
Acute enteritis ...	one

ANALYSIS OF POPULATION (1951)

Parish					Males	Females
Biddenham	...	...	...	...	223	280
Bletsoe	...	...	...	...	132	133
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	...	...	...	...	303	285
Bromham	...	...	...	...	595	625
Cardington	...	...	...	...	157	176
Carlton and Chellington	...	...	...	...	280	237
Clapham	...	...	...	...	1,283	920
Colmworth	...	...	...	...	141	130
Cople	...	...	...	...	235	244
Dean and Shelton	...	...	...	...	161	172
Eastcotts	...	...	...	...	2,885	790
Eaton Socon	...	...	...	...	1,563	1,467
Elstow	...	...	...	...	193	224
Felmersham	...	...	...	...	176	186
Great Barford	...	...	...	...	384	376
Harrold	...	...	...	...	485	534
Kempston Rural	...	...	...	...	592	579
Knotting and Souldrop	...	...	...	...	144	137
Little Barford	...	...	...	...	42	46
Little Staughton	...	...	...	...	108	110
Melchbourne and Yelden	...	...	...	...	160	132
Milton Ernest	...	...	...	...	179	201
Oakley	...	...	...	...	232	246
Odell	...	...	...	...	114	121
Pavenham	...	...	...	...	187	193
Pertenhall	...	...	...	...	90	95
Podington	...	...	...	...	406	331
Ravensden	...	...	...	...	206	223
Renhold	...	...	...	...	273	298
Riseley	...	...	...	...	245	280
Roxton	...	...	...	...	307	300
Sharnbrook	...	...	...	...	358	407
Stagsden	...	...	...	...	182	186
Stevington	...	...	...	...	199	210
Stewartby	...	...	...	...	1,169	469
Swineshead	...	...	...	...	58	57
Thurleigh	...	...	...	...	239	221
Turvey	...	...	...	...	339	394
Wilden	...	...	...	...	158	176
Willington	...	...	...	...	231	244
Wilshampstead	...	...	...	...	443	437
Wootton	...	...	...	...	670	660
Wymington	...	...	...	...	334	318

BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT

POPULATION CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE, SEX & MARITAL STATE (CENSUS 1951)



5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL
HOSPITAL BOARD

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds

CHEST CLINICS (FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

Bedford General Hospital (South Wing).

Males and Females: Monday 5 p.m.—7 p.m.

Wednesday 3 p.m.—5 p.m.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital

Male and Females: Monday—Friday 8.30 a.m.—8.30 p.m.

Saturday 8.30 a.m.—12 noon.

PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

North Wing, Kimbolton Road.

PROVIDED BY THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours, and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics, when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows:—

	<i>Telephone</i>
BEDFORD Bedford Road, Kempston	Bedford 5335
AMPTHILL 14 Dunstable Street	Ampthill 3333
BIGGLESWADE Crab Lane	Biggleswade 2295
DUNSTABLE High Street North	Dunstable 761
LUTON 42 Church Street	Luton 4600
LINSLADE Bucks. County Council, 10, New Road, Linslade.	Leighton Buzzard 3332
RUSHDEN Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association, Mr. C. C. Woods, 3, Purvis Road.	Rushden 403

DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee.

The following is a list of nurses and their districts:—

Carlton and Chellington, Harrold, Odell, Podington and Wymington	Nurse L. Draper*‡ Phone Harrold 265
Bletsoe, Felmersham, Knotting and Souldrop, Sharnbrook	Nurse E. A. Wallace*‡ Phone Sharnbrook 380
Clapham	Nurse M. E. Inskip*‡ Phone Bedford 3810
Biddenham, Bromham, Stagsden, Kempston Rural (part)	Nurse P. R. E. Jones*‡ Phone Oakley 212
Milton Ernest, Oakley, Pavenham, Turvey and Stevington	Nurse E. Henshall †‡ Phone Oakley 535
Dean and Shelton, Melchbourne and Yelden, Pertenhall, Riseley and Swineshead	Nurse M. I. Baines†‡ Phone Riseley 367
Bolnhurst, Colmworth, Keysoe, Little Staughton, Thurleigh	Nurse E. D. Lord*‡ Phone Sharnbrook 380
Kempston Rural (part) Elstow, Eastcotts, Stewartby, Wilstead (midwifery)	Nurse M. Clark†‡ Phone Kempston 2172 Nurse F. K. Patton*‡ Phone Lower Shelton 268
Kempston Rural (part) (general nursing)	Nurse C. B. Macdonald* Phone Kempston 2293 Nurse T. Eccles* (male) Phone Bedford 3030
Cardington, Cople, Stewartby, Wilstead, Eastcotts, Elstow (general nursing)	Nurse E. R. Miller†‡ Phone Cardington 205
Cardington, Cople (midwifery)	Nurse H. K. M. Ayres*‡ Phone Bedford 4503
Eaton Socon, Little Barford	Nurse A. Moore*‡ Phone Eaton Socon 267
Great Barford, Ravensden, Renhold, Roxton, Wilden, Willington	Nurse H. K. M. Ayres*‡ Phone Bedford 4503

* S.R.N. (State Registered Nurse) ‡ S.C.M. (State Certified Midwife)
† S.E.A.N. (State Enrolled Assistant Nurse)

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

Miss M. Cockshoot, S.R.N, S.C.M., H.V., 110, High Street, Riseley.	
Miss E. Strong „ „ „	Flat B, 14, Rothsay Gardens, Bedford. Phone Bedford 3324
Miss D. Hellett „ „ „	64, Goldington Avenue, Bedford.
Miss R. A. Potter „ „ „	c/o “Hilldown”, Biddenham. Bedford 2315
Mrs. B. K. Groom „ „ „	“Eastmoor”, Maulden Road, Flitwick. Phone Flitwick 250

HOME HELP SERVICE

Organiser: Mrs. V. M. Pedley, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford. Phone Bedford 2207.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

Kempston Methodist Schoolroom (Foster Road)	Friday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Estate Office, Highbury Grove, Clapham	Monday, 2 p.m.
Eaton Socon Institute	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Harrold, The Chapel	4 Weekly Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Sharnbrook Church Hall	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Stewartby United Church's Schoolroom	Alternate Mondays, 2 p.m.
Bromham, The School	Alternate Mondays, 2 p.m.
Turvey, The Old Schoolroom	4 Weekly Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wootton Methodist Schoolroom	Alternate Thursday, 2 p.m.
Riseley Village Hall	4 Weekly Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Elstow Parish Hall	Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Great Barford Village Hall	4 Weekly Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Wyboston Village Hall	4 Weekly Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wymington, Wesleyan Chapel	4 Weekly Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Wilstead, Village Hall	4 Weekly Mondays, 2 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Bedford, 29 Barford Avenue	Wednesdays, a.m. fortnightly
Biggleswade, The Lawns	Tuesdays, a.m. fortnightly
Amphill, 1, Dunstable Street	Fridays, a.m. fortnightly

SCHOOL CLINICS

St. Peter's Clinic, 3, St. Peter's Street, Bedford.	Child Guidance Dental (2 surgeries) Orthoptic Speech therapy Sunlight	2 Sessions weekly Sessions as required 6 Sessions weekly 3 Sessions weekly When specially arranged
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6. LEGISLATION IN FORCE

ADOPTIVE ACTS

Slaughter of Animals, 1933, Section I.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- New Streets and Buildings.
- Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.
- Slaughter Houses.
- Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food.

7. SANITARY CONDITION OF THE AREA

(a) WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of a very few Parishes previously served, the supply to the District as a whole was installed in 1935/36 as a standpost scheme, and comprised a pumping station, a water tower and approximately 200 miles of water main.

By the end of the year, the contract for the major scheme of improvement and augmentation was practically complete and in commission, and the contract for the replacement of corroded iron mains was well advanced.

The Council's capital works now comprise 247 miles of mains, water towers at Milton Ernest, Turvey, Ravensden, and Eaton Socon, elevated tanks at Podington and Renhold, two pumping stations at Clapham, and booster stations at Sharnbrook and Riseley.

The Council's water scheme is one of distribution only, bulk supplies of water being acquired from the Bedford Corporation for the major part of the District. For various villages near the perimeter of the Council's area of supply, additional bulk supplies are obtained from Biggleswade Water Board, Ampthill Rural District Council, St. Neots Urban District Council, Rushden & Higham Ferrers Water Board, Kempston Urban District Council and, as a temporary measure, the Ministry of Works.

Reports on Chemical Analyses and Bacteriological Examinations made during the year have been submitted by each of the Water Undertakings concerned.

In each case the results revealed a water supply which was pure, wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The Analysts' reports do suggest that in the case of the supplies from the Rushden and Higham Ferrers Water Board and St. Neots U.D.C. they could be improved by softening.

As a routine check, samples for bacteriological analysis are taken at frequent intervals at various points in the distribution area from all main supplies and with one exception satisfactory reports were received. In the case of the unsatisfactory sample, after thorough flushing of the main further samples were taken which proved satisfactory.

A small number of private wells are still in use and seven samples of these supplies were taken, five of which were satisfactory. Of the remaining two samples, one of the premises has since been scheduled for demolition, and in the other case the premises have been connected to the Council's main.

The water supplied by the Ampthill Rural District Council to the Parishes of Stewartby and Wootton is plumbo-solvent in character, and the use of lead in these Parishes is prohibited by the Council's Bye-Laws.

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES
(in parts per million)

	Bedford Borough	Bedford R.D.			
		Aspley Guise	Biggles- wade W.B. (Dunton)	Rushden & Higham Ferrers W.B.	St. Neots U.D.
Reaction (pH)	7.6	—	7.1	7.2	7.1
Turbidity (Silica scale)	1.0	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units)	Less than 5.0	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	225	—	170	129	—
Non-carbonate Hardness (CaCO ₃)	124	—	30	126	—
Total hardness	349	—	200	255	424
Free carbon dioxide	—	—	20	—	—
Chlorine (as chlorides)	34	—	12	31	46.5
Nitrate nitrogen (N)	2.8	—	Nil	0.5	Nil
Nitrite nitrogen (N)	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	—
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.017	—	Nil	0.01	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.18	—	Nil	0.11	0.024
O ₂ from K ₂ Mn ₂ O ₈ in 3 hours at 37°C.	1.2	—	0.10	0.100	—
Total solids at 180°C	505	130	245	—	—
Electric conductivity (megohms per cc at 20°C.)	680	190	365	—	—
Iron	0.05	0.03	Nil	—	—
Copper	0.05	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lead	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zinc	Nil	—	—	—	—
Calcium	127	—	—	99	—
Magnesium	12	—	—	12	—
Fluorine	0.3	—	—	—	—
Sulphates	124	—	—	—	—
Silica (SiO ₂)	2.5	—	—	—	—
Phosphates	0.18	—	—	—	—

Details of the main water supplies are as follows:—

PARISH	Population estimated for	Length of Mains		Premises supplied	No. of Services	No. of Stand- posts	Population Supplied
		Miles	Yards				
Great Barford	822	2	939	125	116	22	701
Little Barford	97	1	549	6	9	2	58
Biddenham	582	1	1,634	183	183	—	580
Bletsoe	291	8	74	30	33	7	237
Bolnhurst and Keysoe ...	683	15	386	138	146	39	631
Bromham	1,470	6	381	312	264	—	1,466
Cardington	483	1	1,040	105	71	—	461
Carlton and Chellington	597	6	791	75	75	12	408
Clapham	1,751	5	813	519	278	14	1,748
Colmworth	584	4	380	74	73	10	525
Cople	614	2	373	167	148	9	475
Dean and Shelton	361	3	1,432	83	91	16	332
Eastcotts	1,148	3	399	94	99	11	1,100
Eaton Socon	3,143	16	1,334	687	560	48	2,785
Elstow	470	3	466	153	103	—	482
Felmersham	381	5	605	67	68	14	379
Harrold	1,061	1	1,337	139	128	21	747
Kempston Rural	1,081	11	682	293	249	21	1,079
Knotting and Souldrop	289	5	700	62	53	9	289
Melchbourne and Yelden	317	5	676	60	55	12	297
Milton Ernest	438	7	52	75	79	8	400
Oakley	559	4	1,726	149	142	19	559
Odell	235	3	425	54	51	9	233
Pavenham	391	2	1,510	81	83	11	388
Pertenhall	221	2	295	51	53	4	201
Podington	698	5	1,389	82	78	7	603
Ravensden	509	8	199	99	105	14	488
Renhold	617	12	600	284	265	1	614
Riseley	573	4	803	110	106	17	559
Roxton	743	5	1,067	99	83	20	640
Sharnbrook	1,064	9	1,464	214	204	21	832
Stagsden	438	3	959	107	103	14	430
Staughton, Little	238	5	61	47	50	12	236
Stevington	468	4	1,108	85	93	12	468
Stewartby	1,827	6	1,739	343	220	—	1,804
Swineshead	110	1	728	36	30	5	108
Thurleigh	507	10	548	97	95	22	500
Turvey	750	5	1,325	83	79	18	745
Wilden	397	9	29	79	79	15	386
Willington	523	3	332	79	84	13	463
Wilshamstead	971	7	959	197	187	19	969
Wootton	1,460	7	419	275	270	39	1,458
Wymington	726	1	1,213	235	150	2	720
Sandy and Tempsford (Biggleswade R.D.C.)	—	3	876	—	—	—	—
Trunk Main	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	30,688	247	1,382	6,323	5,491	569	28,284

RAINFALL

Rainfall in Borough of Bedford.

Altitude:—114·0 feet (Newlyn)

Diameter of gauge, 8 in. Height of gauge above ground, 1 ft (approx.)

Latitude:—52° 8' 48" N. Longitude:—0° 27' 56" W.

1954 Month			Total ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours			No. of days with .01" or more	No. of days with .04" or more
				Inches	Date			
					9 a.m.	9 a.m.		
January	...	...	0.93	0.37	13th	14th	13	5
February	...	...	1.66	0.33	17th	18th	18	12
March	...	...	2.05	0.50	6th	7th	13	9
April	...	...	0.34	0.10	{ 1st 30th	2nd 1st	6	4
May	...	...	3.01	0.66	28th	29th	19	15
June	...	...	2.74	0.90	12th	13th	14	9
July	...	...	2.20	0.46	16th	17th	19	14
August	...	...	3.77	0.65	9th	10th	20	14
September	...	...	1.64	0.38	11th	12th	20	13
October	...	...	1.85	0.40	20th	27th	14	12
November	...	...	3.37	0.39	23rd	24th	15	14
December	...	...	2.08	1.32	8th	9th	12	7
			25.64				183	128

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Clapham, Stewartby, Stevington, Shortstown and parts of Eaton Socon are served by reasonably satisfactory sewerage systems although at Wymington and Eaton Socon the sewage disposal works cannot be considered suitable by modern standards.

Drainage difficulties in the extensive unsewered areas of the District tended to increase due to modern development for which the cesspool or septic tank provides the only available means of disposal. A reduction of the problem will, however, be possible shortly as during the year work commences on Sewerage Contract No. 1 serving the Parishes of Harrold, Carlton and Chellington, Odell, Sharnbrook, Felmersham, Pavenham and Riseley. The execution of this contract will take about two years to complete, and will result in the removal of serious pollution of the river Great Ouse upstream of Bedford.

Proposals for the sewerage of Bromham, Biddenham, Cotton End and parts of Wootton and Kempston Rural, were also considered by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and sanction to proceed with this work is anticipated in the near future.

The Council continues to empty cesspools as a free service once per year, and closet pails are emptied each week in seven Parishes. The maintenance of these services presents considerable difficulty due to the nature of the work and the shortage of labour, but it is hoped that the main drainage schemes in contract or projected will alleviate the position before any extension of these difficult and costly services becomes unavoidable.

Polluted ditches continue to be a problem, and a total of 3,652 yards were treated as open sewers and cleansed by the Council during the year.

THE SANITATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets				Sewage Disposal	Observations
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Biddenham	V.P.	18	W.C.	1	2	1	Sewer ...	
Bletsoe ...	Con. P.	10	Pail	1	1	2	Daily burial	Very poor building. Should be closed as soon as possible
Bromham	V.P.	56	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly burial	Should be converted to W.C. when sewer available
Cardington	C.P.	108	W.C.	2	5	1	Small disposal plant	Converted to W.C. with disposal plant during 1953
Carlton ...	V.P.	29	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly collection by R.D.C.	Should be converted to W.C. when sewer available
Clapham	Con. P.	261	W.C.	10	4	12	Sewer ...	Sanitary accommodation needs replanning
Colmworth	V.P.	25	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	
Cople ...	C.P.	42	W.C.	2	1	1	Cesspool ...	
Dean & Shelton	C.P.	38	W.C.	2	1	1	Small disposal plant	Lavatory basin needs connecting to drain
Eastcotts	C.P.	165	W.C.	3	4	1	Small disposal plant	Converted to W.C., 1952
Eaton Socon	C.P.	402	Pail	2	5	4	Twice weekly collection by R.D.C.	Sanitary accommodation insufficient. Conversion to W.C. urgently needed
Elstow ...	C.P.	375	W.C.	3	7	2	Sewer ...	Sanitary accommodation insufficient
Felmersham	C.P.	22	W.C.	1	3	-	Disposal plant	Conversion to W.C. in progress

The Sanitation of Primary Schools—*continued*

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets			Sewage Disposal	Observations	
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Gt. Barford	C.P.	91	Pail	2	3	1	Drying Shed in use	Insufficient sanitary accommodation. Small disposal plant needed
Harrold	C.S.M.	162	W.C.	4	8	—	Disposal plant	
Harrold	C.P.	114	W.C.	3	3	2	Disposal plant	
Kempston (Rural)	C.P.	95	W.C.	2	4	1	Disposal plant	Converted to W.C. in 1953
Keysoe ...	C.P.	114	W.C.	2	3	2	Disposal plant	Converted to W.C. in 1954
Little Staughton	C.P.	17	W.C.	1	2	1	Disposal plant	
Milton Ernest	V.P.	51	Pail	2	3	—	Buried three times a week	
Oakley ...	C.P.	45	W.C.	1	1	1	Cesspool ...	Sanitary accommodation insufficient. Needs small disposal plant—to serve canteen also
Odell ...	V.P.	22	Pail	2	1	1	Removed weekly by R.D.C.	
Pavenham	C.P.	30	Pail	1	1	1	Removed weekly by R.D.C.	
Podington	V.P.	38	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	Difficulties in disposal. Could be connected to main sewer
Ravensden	V.P.	36	Pail	2	2	1	Buried twice weekly	
Renhold ...	Con. P.	31	Pail	2	2	0	Buried twice weekly	
Riseley ...	V.P.	156	Pail	2	2	0	Buried twice weekly	Could be connected to disposal plant on Council housing site

The Sanitation of Primary Schools—*continued*

School	Type	Number of Pupils	Closets			Sewage Disposal	Observations	
			Type	Number B. G. I.				
Roxton ...	V.P.	73	Pail	1	1	1	Buried twice weekly	Could be drained to disposal works at proposed housing estate
Sharnbrook	C.P.	130	W.C.	2	2	1	Disposal plant	
Souldrop	C.P.	10	Pail	2	2	0	Drying shed in use	
Stagsden ...	V.P.	21	Pail	4	4	0	Buried twice weekly	
Stevington	C.P.	25	W.C.	2	3	0	Cesspool	
Stewartby	C.S.M.	327	W.C.	13	10	0	Main Sewer	
Stewartby	C.P.	140	W.C.	3	6	2	Main Sewer	
Thurleigh	C.P.	57	W.C.	3	3	0	Disposal plant	
Turvey ...	C.P.	35	Pail	2	4	4	Buried weekly	
Wilden ...	V.P.	29	Pail	1	1	2	Removed thrice weekly	
Willington	C.P.	43	W.C.	2	3	2	Cesspool	By contractor
Wilstead	C.J.	35	Pail	2	3	0	Buried twice weekly	
Wilstead	C.I.	28	Pail	0	0	3	Buried weekly	
Wootton	C.J.	}	Pail	2	5	0	} Drying shed in use	
Wootton	C.I.		Pail	0	0	6		
Wymington	V.P.	75	W.C.	2	3	0	Main sewer	Small disposal plant would serve both schools

SCHOOL CLOSURES

No schools were closed for health reasons during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Extensive pollutions continue to occur both in major water courses such as the River Ouse and small ditches scattered throughout the developed parts of the area. The schemes of sewerage at last under way will, to a great extent, alleviate the nuisances arising from these conditions.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Water closets are increasing in number due to the extensive new building being undertaken in the District and the modernisation, with or without the aid of grants, of older properties, the owners and occupiers of which no longer consider a bucket as a satisfactory sanitary convenience. There will, however, continue to be a very large number of pail closets for many years to come, and the disposal of their contents will continue as a burden on the Council and the individual householder.

(c) PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council operates a scheme of refuse collection by direct labour, collecting refuse once a week in 6 parishes, and fortnightly in all other parishes.

(d) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following list gives the statistics relative to the sanitary inspection of the area.

INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,934
Premises inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,067
Houses inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,625
Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,952
Houses not reasonably fit under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,721
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Cases of infectious disease notified and investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Insect infestation of houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rats and Mice infestation of premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Inspections of dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Inspections of shops and offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Inspections in connection with the Comprehensive Scheme of Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	503

REPORT OF NUISANCES

Defective and/or blocked drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Defective and/or blocked sewers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Defective sinks and wastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dangerous buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Overflowing and leaking cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,659
Defective and insanitary closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Filthy, verminous and insanitary premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lack of, or defective, refuse accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Insanitary ditches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Defective water services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Houses needing redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Dairy nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouse nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughterhouse nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

REPORT OF DEFECTS FOUND

Defective Walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Defective Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Defective Eaves Gutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Defective Rainwater Pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Defective Rainwater Butts and/or Tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Defective Solid Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Wooden Floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Defective Wall Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Ceiling Plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Defective Windows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Insufficient Lighting and Ventilation to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Height to Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Doors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108

Defective Cooking Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Defective other Grates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Defective Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dwellings with no Food Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Staircases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Staircases with no Handrails	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Coppers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Dwellings with no Washing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Defective Draining Boards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defective Mantelpieces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective Hot Water Systems	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Defective Paintwork and Decorations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Houses affected by dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective or no paving to Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective paths and Gates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Earth and Chemical Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Defective Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Premises without Drainage Facilities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Defective Sink Buckets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Defective Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Defective Fences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective Water Services	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	220
Defective Gas or Electric Fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	216

SUMMARY OF MATTERS DEALT WITH								<i>Defects or Nuisances Found</i>
								<i>Inspections</i>
Houses, Inspection of, Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,625	1,721
Public Health Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	965	448
Factories, etc	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	1
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Slaughterhouses and Retail Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	—
Inspections in connection with Water Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	503	160
							4,143	2,330
Number of Notices served—Preliminary	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	
“ “ “ “ Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Proceedings taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

DISINFECTION

Where it is necessary, in cases of notifiable infectious disease, the rooms occupied by the patient are sealed off and disinfected with a dilute spray of formalin or by formaldehyde gas. Three rooms were so treated in 1954. An inspection of the house and sanitary arrangements is made in each case, and where necessary, informal notices are served requiring any defects found to be remedied.

(e) PETROL AND CARBIDE LICENCES

Number of licences to store petrol and carbide granted during the year ...	132
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(f) SHOPS AND OFFICES

During the year 29 inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1934, and in every case the provisions of the Act were complied with. With regard to Circular 1,600 dealing with offices, no action has been found to be necessary.

(g) CAMPING SITES

(a) Number of sites used for camping purposes	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of sites licensed by Local Authority	...	...	...	—
(c) Estimated maximum number of campers resident during the summer season	...	...	...	—

(h) MOVABLE DWELLINGS

(a) Number of Licences issued during the year to use sites	...	...	10
(b) Number of Licences issued during the year to erect or station movable dwellings	...	...	10

(i) SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was found necessary during the year.

(j) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

- (a) There are no public baths in the area.
- (b) In Stewartby there is a privately owned swimming bath.

The River Ouse runs through the district and bathing takes place along the banks in many Parishes.

(k) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council Houses infested	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of other houses infested	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	1

Methods employed:—

- (a) Skirting, picture rails, etc., loosened and sprayed with Zaldecide. Rooms sealed and fumigated with Thermatox Fumigators. The above operations are repeated after several days.
- (b) Careful inspection of belongings of prospective tenants is made prior to occupation of new house.
- (c) Disinfestation carried out by Local Authority free.
- (d) Visits are made to ensure that the premises are being kept in a clean condition.

(l) RATS AND MICE—PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council employ one rodent operative who is responsible for the survey of the area and for treatment of domestic and business premises in which rats and mice are found. The treatment of domestic premises is carried out as a free service.

Although the Council is the only Authority for the administration and enforcement of the Act, specific duties are placed upon the County Agricultural Executive Committee in respect of treatment of agricultural lands and premises. When areas are being surveyed and treated there is close co-operation between the Agricultural Committee's staff and the Council's operative and, where necessary disinfestation is undertaken simultaneously by the two organisations. This arrangement has worked satisfactorily and has resulted in a marked reduction of the rat population in some areas.

Regular treatment is applied to the Council's refuse tips, where the degree of infestation appears to be considerably reduced. Test baiting of sewers is undertaken as a routine measure once each year and treatment carried out if found necessary.

The following table gives details of the work undertaken by the end of the year:—

Number of Properties Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2,471
Number of Inspections Made	...	...	...	...	...	2,792
Refuse Tip Visits and Treatments	...	...	...	...	...	157
Sewers Prebaited and/or Treated	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dwelling Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1,672
Dwelling Houses Treated	...	...	...	...	...	235
Business Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	295
Business Premises Treated	...	...	...	...	...	14
Agricultural Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	504
Infestations Referred to Agricultural Committee	...	...	...	...	...	14

8. HOUSING

Number of Applications approved during the year	...	...	...	...	573
Number of Dwellings	...	...	...	...	239
„ „ Conversions to Dwellings	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Estate Development Lay-outs	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ Additions and Alterations	...	...	...	...	56
„ „ Garages	...	...	...	...	67
„ „ Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	61
„ „ Farm Buildings	...	...	...	...	39
„ „ Factory and Workshop Buildings	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ Stores and Sheds	...	...	...	...	27
„ „ Offices	...	...	...	...	6
„ „ Shops	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Miscellaneous Plans	...	...	...	...	35
Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	105
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Private Enterprise during the year	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Conversions and Adaptations completed by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Houses erected by Local Authority during the year	...	...	...	...	99
„ „ Inspections in connection with foundations	...	...	...	...	235
„ „ Inspections in connection with D.P.Cs.	...	...	...	...	114
„ „ Intermediate Inspections	...	...	...	...	2,249
„ „ Inspections of drains and testing	...	...	...	...	366
„ „ Inspections under T. and C. Planning Act 1947	...	...	...	...	355
„ „ Inspections under Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	3,190
„ „ Final Inspections	...	...	...	...	235
„ „ Samples taken	...	...	...	...	—

Under the various Housing Acts, 1,148 Houses have been erected by this Council and the late Eaton Socon Rural District Council.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The condition of old properties remains substantially the same as previously, difficulty being experienced in reconciling the amount of repairs required and the rents paid. Legislation which purports to amend this discrepancy, appears to have made no impression whatsoever in this area, succeeding only in placing on the Statute Book one more Enactment which, after much time spent in studying, no one really understands or finds of practical use.

Housing inspections have been carried out continuously throughout the area and considerable patchwork repairs have been obtained, mostly as a result of informal action by officers.

During this year there have been many more applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, as amended by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the procedure having been simplified by making it unnecessary to submit applications to

the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for sanction in each case. 22 applications were approved by the Council, and enquiries were made in numerous other cases. The scheme for improvement grants has much to commend it, and apart from the resulting modernisation of old houses, repairs are often undertaken which it would be difficult to secure under other circumstances. In that improvement grants constitute, for all practical purposes, a free gift of public money, the scheme does, however, place a great responsibility on Councils and their officers.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,952
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose	2,698
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1,684

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	1,665
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—	
(a) By Owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
B. Proceedings Under Public Health Acts	2
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	—

OVERCROWDING

Owing to the acute housing shortage, temporary overcrowding exists in some houses.

HOUSING ACT, 1949 AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

Improvement Grants:—

Applications Approved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of Houses Concerned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Applications Refused	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Applications Withdrawn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Improvements Completed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Units of Accommodation Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

On the 1st October, 1949, the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, came into operation by which control of milk production passed from the Local Authority to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Council retaining the responsibility for the registration of dairymen and the enforcement of hygienic conditions in retail dairies.

Number of Dairies Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Number of Dairymen Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Number of Dealers' Licences—Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of Inspections Made	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defects found requiring Official Action	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Samples of Milk taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Samples found Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

SECTION 20

In four instances during the year, milk was found to contain tubercle bacilli and in each case arrangements were made to have all milk from that source pasteurised until the infected cow was removed from the herd.

(b) MEAT INSPECTION

Consequent upon the passing of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, it became possible for the first time since 1939 to slaughter animals in licensed private slaughterhouses. By the end of the year, no great advantage had been taken of this privilege and killing was resumed in only nine slaughterhouses. Of these, only one undertook slaughtering on any but the smallest scale.

The resumption of private slaughtering presented difficulties with regard to the inspection of meat, as the existing Officers were already heavily committed to other work, and as a result of 15 years of slaughtering in public abattoirs, had unavoidably become somewhat inexperienced in the specialist duty of meat inspection. Because of its importance, the Council decided to appoint an additional Sanitary Inspector to undertake meat inspection and other duties.

The following meat was condemned as unfit for human food:—

7 Carcases	114 lbs. Meat
32 tins Meat	

(c) OTHER FOOD

Number of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Want of Limewashing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Inspections of Shops and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

3 lbs. Cheese	1 Tin Fish
23 lbs. Fish	1 „ Jam
5 Tins Pudding	1 „ Soup
29 „ Vegetables	1 „ Patent Barley
5 „ Tomatoes	1 Jar Mincemeat
57 „ Fruit	1 Tin Meat Paste
6 „ Milk	9 Packets Cake Mixture
10 „ Coffee	

(d) ICE CREAM

There are 42 retailers in the District, and of these all but 1 sell prepacked Ice Cream supplied to them by reputable manufacturers.

(e) CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

All catering establishments in the area comply with the requirements of Section 13 of the Foods and Drugs Act and have a high standard of hygiene, except one cafe, where as the result of informal action, alterations are being undertaken.

10. FACTORIES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

(a) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	1	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	78	4	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	—	—	—
Totals	85	5	2	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	2	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(c) OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel— Making, etc. ...	7	—	—	—	—	—

11. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Notifications by Age Groups									Removed to hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	over 15	Total	
Measles	1	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	6	—
Whooping Cough	5	4	5	3	8	24	—	—	49	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	—	1	10	—	1	14	2
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	10	15	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	—	1	1	1	1	14	10	18	46	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of measles and whooping cough was low during the year and most cases were very mild and no deaths occurred from either disease.

Scattered cases of scarlatina also occurred throughout the district, no specific focus of infection being detected.

Only one case of poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

Infective hepatitis was unusually prevalent, the centre of the outbreak being at Eaton Socon. 24 of the 46 cases were school children. The long incubation period (6 weeks or more) often makes it difficult to trace the source of infection. It is known, however, that the disease is spread by close personal contact and by infected food. The latter fact is an added reason for raising our standards of food hygiene.

NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

Parish				Measles	W. Cough	Sc. Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Infective Hepatitis	Poliomyelitis
Biddenham	...	...	...	—	2	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Bletsoe	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bromham	...	...	...	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cardington	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Carlton and Chellington	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Clapham	...	...	...	—	8	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Cople	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colmworth	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Dean and Shelton	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon	...	...	...	2	22	—	1	—	—	—	29	—
Elstow	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastcotts	...	...	...	3	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Felmersham	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Great Barford	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrold	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Honeydon	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kempston Rural	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Knotting	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Barford	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Staughton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melchbourne and Yelden	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milton Ernest	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oakley	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Odell	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pavenham	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pertenhall	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Podington	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Renhold	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Riseley	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roxton	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stagsden	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stevington	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stewartby	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swineshead	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Thurleigh	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turvey	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Wilden	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willington	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wootton	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wymington	...	...	...	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wilstead	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Total				6	49	14	15	—	1	4	46	—

TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS

Age				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-35	...	...	...	4+2*	3+2*	1	1	—	—	—	—
35-65	...	...	...	5+3*	1+1*	2	—	1	1	1	—
over 65	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total				12+5*	5+3*	3	2	1	1	1	—

* Transferred from other Districts.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

						Males	Females
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	92	64
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	17	27

TUBERCULOSIS IN PARISHES

Parish						New Cases			
						Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
Bolnhurst and Keysoe	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	—
Bromham	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	—
Carlton and Chellington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Clapham	...	...	...	...	...	2+1*	1*	—	1
Colmworth	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	—	1
Dean and Shelton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Eastcotts	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Elstow	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Eaton Socon	...	...	...	...	...	2+1*	—	—	—
Great Barford	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—
Harrold	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Kempston Rural	...	...	...	...	...	2*	—	—	—
Knotting and Souldrop	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—
Little Staughton	...	...	...	...	...	1*	—	—	—
Milton Ernest	...	...	...	...	...	—	1*	—	—
Odell	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Podington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ravensden	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Riseley	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Roxton	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Sharnbrook	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Stewartby	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Thurleigh	...	...	...	...	...	—	1*	—	—
Turvey	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wilden	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—
Wilstead	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Wootton	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Wymington	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total						12+5*	5+3*	3	2

* Transferred from other Districts.

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION

This District	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.2
Bedfordshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.1
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.0

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

No visit was made to this District by the mobile unit during the year.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is now the responsibility of the County Council and the state of protection of the children of the District is indicated by the tables appearing below, which have been supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer.

IMMUNISATION STATE OF THE CHILD POPULATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Number of children completely protected on December 31st, 1954 (i.e. have received a Primary Course or Booster injection since January 1st, 1950)	36	1,134	1,816	1,022	4,008
Number of children partially protected (i.e. have been immunised but have not received inoculation since January 1st, 1950)	—	—	337	600	937
Total number of children immunised at any time	36	1,134	2,153	1,622	4,945

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination ...	134	12	10	11	18	185
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	8	37	45

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other suitable premises, persons suffering from grave chronic disease, and/or, who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote to themselves or are not receiving from others, proper care and attention.

This legislation was not invoked during the year.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 85

Scabies

By arrangements with the Borough of Bedford, infected persons are treated at the Borough Treatment Centre, Commercial Road, Bedford, at a cost of 10s. per treatment.

Where possible, arrangements are made for the other members of the household to attend for treatment as contacts at the same time as the infected person or persons.

During the year under review no treatments were given.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Regulations 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936

No necessity for any action under these regulations arose during the year under review.

